(b) if so, the main topics discussed thereat;

(c) the main agrements reached between the two;

(d) whether the EU has, recently, upgraded its mission in India with a Grade II Ambassador; and

(e) if so, to what extent both the countries have improved their relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) The annual India-EU Summit demonstrates that the relationship has assumed strategic depth and maturity. At the 4th India-EU Summit which was held on 29 November 2003 in New Delhi both sides reviewed bilateral relations, both political and economic, and exchanged views on regional and international developments of mutual concern.

(c) At the Summit, the Joint Press Statement was adopted, the Financing Agreement for Trade and Investment Development Programme was signed and the Customs Cooperation Agreement was initiated.

(d) and (e) In recognition of the importance of the multifaceted relationship, both sides are represented by senior diplomats in Delhi and Brussels. A senior EC diplomat has recently assumed the charge as Ambassador/Head of the EC Delegation in India on 24th November 2003.

Salary in Industrial and Business Institutions

†*250. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the salary in the industrial and business institutions in India have been increased as compared to other countries in the Asia-Pacific Region during the year 2003;

(b) if so, the rate of growth in the amount of salary payments and the names of such industries and business where salaries have been increased; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the categories of officers and employees whose payments have been increased?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) On the basis of results derived through conduct of Annaul Survey of Industries, the wages/salaries per man-day worked in Industries (at 3 digit Level of National Industrial Classification — 1998) at all India level worked out to be Rs. 148.86 during 2000-01 (latest available), which is higher by 7.80 per cent as compared to Rs. 138.09 during 1999-2000. The increase in wages/salaries during the period in the Public Sector, Joint Sector and Private Sector was 22.37 percent, 12.29 percent and 6.26 percent respectively. The categories of workers, except children, witnessed increase in wages/salaries during 2000-01.

The wages/salaries in different countries as published in Year Book of Labour Statistics or Bulletin of Labour Statistics by International Labour Organization are given in their currencies and for different periods i.e., hours, daily, weekly, monthly basis etc. and sectors of employment as well as wages/salaries are defined differently. Thus, the wages/salaries are not comparable amongst countries of the Asia Pacific region.

Financial Assistance for Roads

*251. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had stopped financial assistance to several States for road construction and maintenances for not adhering to the loading norms for goods transport vehicles;

(b) if so, the names of States wo whom assistance has been stopped;

(c) the reaction of these States; and

(d) by when the assistance is likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) A decision was taken to withold the release of funds from the Central Road Fund (CRF) to seven states, namely, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh due to issue of special passes/tokens/